

life, these accidents cost Mississippi's citizens \$1.3 billion per year, or \$500 for every resident, for emergency services, medical costs, property damage and lost productivity.

Another relevant statistic is that 77 percent of all fatal accidents were on two-lane roads and only 14 percent were on roads with four lanes or more. Money that is spent on highway improvements, such as adding lanes and shoulders, will save lives. It is also good economics.

I'm confident the flexibility provided in this bill will help Mississippi solve some of its special and most serious highway and transportation problems, especially the completion of our comprehensive four lane program.

Mississippi has been working for over ten years to implement this program. According to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, projects remaining to be put under contract include 30 miles of US 45, 17 miles of US 49 West, 69 miles of US 61, 25.4 miles of US 82, 54.6 miles of US 84, 24.6 miles of US 98, 58 miles of State Road 25, 33 miles on State Roads 57 and 63, and 10 miles of State Road 302. All of US 72 is now under contract and all of US 78 is now open to four-lane traffic.

The specific provision of the bill that helps us in this way gives states the flexibility to use up to 22 percent of their trust fund allocations for any projects that fall within title XXIII of the U.S. Code, which covers all highway programs.

There are other provisions of this legislation that are of special interest to our efforts in Mississippi to ensure that roads, highways and bridges on federal lands within the States are improved. Additional funding added to the bill as part of the committee amendment will provide \$850 million in additional contract authority over 5 years for the three elements of the Federal Lands Highway Program.

Funding for Parkways and Park Roads will increase by \$70 million per year for fiscal years 1999-2003, and funding for Public Lands Highways by \$50 million per year during the same period. This ought to provide funding to bring the Natchez Trace Parkway closer to completion and ensure some much needed improvements are made to roads in our national forests and wildlife refuge areas.

Another provision of this bill that is of major interest to me and my State is the additional \$450 million for funding NAFTA Trade Corridors.

The I-69 Trade Corridor Highway, which will run from Canada down through the Mississippi Valley to our border with Mexico, will provide significant economic benefits to the entire region through which it passes. We expect our State of Mississippi will be one of the states through which I-69 will pass.

Without this investment, the transportation infrastructure of the Mid-South region cannot accommodate the needs associated with increasing trade

and commercial traffic. Growth in North American trade, as well as trade between the U.S. and the rest of the world, is supported by recent trends and current projections, particularly in the agricultural sector.

U.S. agricultural exports, which were valued at \$26.3 billion in fiscal year 1986, increased to \$54.2 billion in 1995 and to nearly \$60 billion in fiscal year 1996. We also consistently export more agriculture commodities and food products than we import.

A recent USDA Agricultural Outlook publication projected "robust growth" in global demand for agricultural products in international commodity markets through the year 2005. It also predicted that U.S. high-value agricultural exports will continue to show strong growth, generally outpacing bulk exports and accounting for a growing share of U.S. farm exports.

Every state in the I-69 Trade Corridor exports agricultural products and commodities, sharing in export-generated employment, income, and rural development. These exports generate economic activity in the non-farm economy as well. USDA estimates that each \$1.00 received from agricultural exports in 1995 stimulated another \$1.38 in supporting activities to produce those exports generating an estimated 895,000 full-time civilian jobs, including 562,000 in the non-farm sector.

Trends in agriculture exports and the potential for their growth suggest that additional investment in transportation resources, particularly in the I-69 Trade Corridor, will provide a favorable return to the economies of all the States and communities along the route.

Madam President, I commend the members of the Committee on Environment and Public Works who have worked hard to provide more funding for our transportation needs and to ensure a more equitable distribution of funds to the States, and I especially congratulate, our distinguished majority leader for his effective leadership in helping to produce a good and fair bill. This bill ought to receive an overwhelming vote of approval.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR COLLINS' GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, today I have the pleasure to announce that Senator SUSAN COLLINS of the great State of Maine, the current Presiding Officer, is the latest recipient of the prestigious Golden Gavel Award.

Since the 1960s, Senators who preside over the Senate in excess of 100 hours

are recognized with the Golden Gavel. The Golden Gavel has long served as a symbol of appreciation for time these dedicated Senators contribute to presiding over the U.S. Senate—a privileged and important duty.

With respect to this particular Presiding Officer, two words describe Senator COLLINS as she presides over this Chamber: reliable and punctual. Senator COLLINS takes her presiding responsibilities seriously and is someone who can always be counted on to serve. We now take the opportunity to extend our thanks to her for her commitment to the fine way in which she presides.

I must say, she has received one of the highest compliments that can be received from the Senate itself. Senator BYRD has commented about what a good job she does in the chair and that she presides fairly and she pays attention to what the Senators are saying.

I congratulate her and thank her on behalf of the U.S. Senate for her time. (Applause, Senators rising.)

Mr. BAUCUS. Will the leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. BAUCUS. I agree with the leader's comments and observations with respect to the current Presiding Officer. In the few times I have been on the floor—and certainly during this last week of managing this bill—she has often been the Presiding Officer. And she smiles.

Mr. LOTT. Sometimes that is hard to do.

Mr. BAUCUS. Yes. Not all Presiding Officers smile. I don't know why she is smiling, if it is in agreement or whatever, but she certainly is engaged. It is a very refreshing continence and demeanor compared to a lot of Presiding Officers.

I also very much congratulate her and agree with the leader's comments.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you.

Mr. CHAFEE. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. CHAFEE. I share those sentiments. I have noticed that the Presiding Officer who is in the seat now, the distinguished Senator from Maine, as you say, follows the debate. Now, she may be thinking about something else, but you wouldn't know it, and, as a matter of fact, she has indicated approval of many of the things I have said, at least it looks that way.

So I think it is wonderful that she has won this great award. I hope she will not give up now. What can she aspire to? How are we going to keep her in this chair?

Mr. BAUCUS. Give her a second one.

Mr. LOTT. Make her a permanent one, except when, of course, Senator THURMOND is available.

I thank the Senator for his comments.

INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote scheduled to occur today now occur at a day and time to be determined by the majority leader after notification of the minority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that all first-degree amendments, as provided under rule XXII, now be filed up to 4 hours following the cloture vote and second-degree amendments to be filed within 24 hours after the cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Now, to explain briefly just what we have done, and it is with the concurrence of the Democratic leader and the managers of the legislation. I do feel that we should get cloture. We should begin to move toward a defined list of amendments and try to bring this very important legislation to a conclusion.

But the biggest complicating factor we have right now is that the titles from the Banking Committee and Finance Committee have not been offered and have not been adopted. I hope now that the two chairmen of those committees will be prepared, later on today or tomorrow, to have those titles included and will give the managers more time to work with Senators who still have some questions that need to be answered. So it seemed, after talking with Senator DASCHLE, Senator BAUCUS, and Senator CHAFEE that it was the proper thing to do at this time.

But let me say, again, we need to begin to think about what are the important amendments; how do we bring this matter to a conclusion. I had indicated last week that it might be necessary, if we cannot find some way to begin to bring it to a close by Wednesday, for us to begin to think about Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday sessions. I know that a lot of Senators have conflicts and would prefer that we not do it that way. But we will need everybody's cooperation in order to avoid that.

This is Monday. I have faith that we are going to make progress this afternoon and tomorrow. And we will do another assessment then about exactly when we have this cloture vote. I remind Senators that we do have a recorded vote scheduled at 5:30, after 20 minutes of debate on the Intelligence Disclosure Act.

I yield the floor, Madam President.

Mr. BAUCUS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank the majority leader for his efforts in helping us move this bill very expeditiously. He very graciously decided to vitiate the cloture vote that was otherwise scheduled today in an effort to speed up the passage of a couple of the titles of the bill, particularly the Finance and the Banking Committee portions.

I pledge my cooperation—I know I speak for Senator CHAFEE—in trying to

work this bill through as quickly as we possibly can because we have to get this thing enacted into law—the current extension expires—so people—

Mr. LOTT. The first of May.

Mr. BAUCUS. Right—can get their dollars spent on the highway programs.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

CLASSIFIED AND RELATED INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1668, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1668) to encourage the disclosure to Congress of certain classified and related information.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 20 minutes of debate on the bill, equally divided, with no amendments or motions in order.

The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the passage of S. 1668, the Disclosure to Congress Act of 1998.

This legislation directs the President to inform employees of the intelligence community that they may disclose information, including classified information, to an appropriate oversight committee of Congress when that information is evidence of misconduct, fraud, or gross mismanagement.

The committee is hopeful that this legislation will also encourage employees within the intelligence community to bring such information to an appropriate committee of Congress rather than unlawfully disclosing such information to the media, as happens from time to time.

It is imperative that individuals with sensitive or classified information about misconduct within the executive branch have a "safe harbor" for disclosure where they know the information will be properly safeguarded and thoroughly investigated.

Further, employees within the intelligence community must know that they may seek shelter in that "safe harbor" without fear of retribution.

It is not generally known that the Whistle Blower Protection Act does not cover employees of the agencies within the intelligence community.

The whistle blower statute also expressly proscribes the disclosure of in-

formation that is specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

In other words, classified information is not covered by the current whistle blower statute.

Therefore, employees within the intelligence community are not protected from adverse personnel actions if they choose to disclose such information to Congress.

In fact, an employee who discloses classified information to Congress without prior approval is specifically subject to sanctions which may include reprimand, termination of a security clearance, suspension without pay, or removal.

Last year, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence reported the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 which included section 306, a provision with language similar to the bill before you.

Section 306, however, was much broader than the language in this bill because it directed the President to inform all executive branch employees that it would not be contrary to law, regulation, executive order, or public policy to disclose certain information, including classified information, to an appropriate committee or their own Member of Congress.

The Senate passed that bill by a vote of 98 to 1.

Shortly after the Senate vote, the administration issued a Statement of Administration Policy claiming that section 306 was unconstitutional and that if it remained in the bill, in its present form, senior advisers would recommend that the President veto the bill.

Last year, in conference, members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence also expressed concern over the constitutional implications of section 306.

Our House colleagues were also mindful of the administration's veto threat as expressed in the Statement of Administration Policy.

In response to their concerns, the Senate offered an amendment that significantly narrowed the scope of the provision to cover only employees of agencies within the intelligence community, as does this bill.

The amendment offered in conference further narrowed the provision by allowing disclosure only to committees with primary jurisdiction over the agency involved.

In deference to our colleagues' concerns, however, our committee agreed to amend the provision to express a sense of the Congress that the Congress and executive branch have equal standing to receive this type of information.

In conference, members of both committees committed to hold hearings in the second session of the 105th Congress with the intent to fully examine the constitutional implications to such legislation and to pursue appropriate legislative remedy.

Our committee fulfilled our obligation by holding hearings on February 4 and 11.